REPORT

OF THE

LONDON PASTORAL CONFERENCE,

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

HELD IN THE FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONG ACRE,

ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AND 26TH, 1852.

ELDER JACOB GATES, PRESIDENT,
" JAS. MARSDEN, } SECRETARIES.
" J. V. LONG, }

ALSO,

A BRIEF HALF-YEARLY REPORT

OF THE

London Conference,

HELD IN THE EASTERN LECTURE HALL, WHITECHAPEL, SATURDAY, DEC. 5TH, 1852.

ELDER JAMES MARSDEN, PRESIDENT.

[PRICE TWOPENCE.]

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CONFERENCE REPORT.

On Saturday evening, December 25, the Presidents and Priesthood of the London, Reading, Kent, and Essex Conferences met in the "Saints' Lecture Room," Whitechapel, London; and after singing a hymn, Elder Thomas Squires, engaged in prayer.

Elder Gates said, I feel truly thankful for the privilege of meeting with the brethren of the Conferences, over which I have been presiding during the past year. It causes my heart to rejoice to see so many brethren who are clothed upon with the holy priesthood assembled together, to unite their faith and wisdom in counsel for the furtherance of the work of God in those Conferences wherein we are labouring.

This is a sort of preparatory meeting for our Pastoral Conference tomorrow. We have not met here to do the business usually done at a Conference Council; but, notwithstanding, we shall present the authorities of the Church, and probably hear the representatives of the four Conferences, that we may learn of their united increase, etc., and we will then hear from Elders Daniel Spencer and John Van Cott, who have just arrived from the Valley.

I am about to leave you and go to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, where I expect soon to meet you all, there to rejoice in the company of the faithful people of God. And I pray that this Conference may be one long to be remembered, yes, even until we meet no more to be separated.

I will now take the sense of the meeting relative to the various quorums of the Priesthood as they are organized in Zion.

The following resolutions were then adopted:—

1. That we sustain Brigham Young as Prophet, Seer, and Revelator of this dispensation, and Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his counsellors.

2. That we support the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with Orson Hyde at their head, as special witnesses to all nations.

3. That we sustain by our faith and prayers Samuel W. Richards as President of the Church in Britain, and Levi Richards his counsellor.

4. That we support by our faith, prayers, and means Elder Jacob Gates, Pastor of the London, Reading, Kent, and Essex Conferences.

5. That we uphold and support Elder James Marsden, as President of the London Conference.

6. That we uphold and support Elder Thomas Squires, as President of the Reading Conference.

7. That we uphold and support Elder John Lewis, as the President of the Kent Conference.

8. That we uphold and support Elder Martin Slack, as President of the Essex Conference.

Elder T. C. Armstrong then read over the statistical Report of the above Conferences.

Elder Daniel Spencer then arose and said, I feel happy brethren in being introduced to this congregation, and to the Elders of Israel. It is the greatest honour that can be conferred upon me or any man, to be permitted to associate with so many of the servants of God. I am a stranger to you, but yet you seem as though I had known you for years. You appear to be happy, and every thing looks cheering and pleasant, and just as

it should be. I have been in the habit of associating with the highest authorities of the Church, ever since I came into it, except the last three months, during which I have been engaged in crossing the snow capped mountains, the plains, and the ocean, and have not had such a privilege for that length of time. And I feel to bless you in the name of the Lord God of Israel, and to thank Him for permitting me to meet with you. I have nothing to say particularly new from the Valley, as I know of. But this I can say, it is a great time of rejoicing there with the saints. The spirit of revelation is abundantly poured out upon our Presidents, and a spirit of union, harmony, and peace pervade the bosoms of that people. and there they feel that they are under the favour and blessing of heaven. And the prayers of the saints are offered morning and evening for the saints who are scattered abroad among the nations of the earth. And I feel that you are the subjects of their prayers, and you are the people, above all others upon the face of the globe, to be blessed in these last days.

Our fathers in the world of spirits are looking for our works, and I very much doubt whether the Elders sufficiently appreciate the standing we hold before God. Elders of Israel! You are appointed to gather the souls of men, in these last days, to the vallies of the mountains. Brethren look out! for those who are gone before us, and sacrificed all for the Gospel's sake, they understand the principle, and the importance of these things. And if we understand them we shall be willing to do all that is required of us for the spread of truth and the upbuilding of the kingdom of God.

I feel to rejoice that I am in the company of these young men,—men who will do a great and good part in this work. I have witnessed with much pleasure the order and good feeling that have been manifested amongst you to night, and these are signs, and prove most demonstratively to me that your Presidents are men of wisdom. Brethren, there are no limits to our power if we magnify our callings and priesthood, whereunto we have been ordained.

You all, I presume, feel desirous of going to the Valley to receive further endowments and blessings, and be thereby better prepared for the accomplishment of the great work of the last days. But if the proper time be not come, be patient, for the Lord God will open the way; he will prepare all things before you. Stand in your lot, and do whatever is required of you, and you shall prosper and be blessed in all you set your hands to do.

The first principle taught us in the Valley was, is to be obedient to counsel; and if you be obedient to counsel all will be well; then the weight is off your shoulders, and you are no longer responsible.

Ever since I came into this Church there has been something to enlarge our hearts, and to enable us to comprehend everything pertaining to salvation. It is not like the sectarian religion that comes to perfection in 24 hours. If you keep humble and faithful, nothing will stumble you, neither "*Spiritual Wifism*," nor anything else; you will swallow all down, and that too without any oil. Therefore be willing to learn and watch over these little propensities of your nature which would lead you astray, and you will get along with every principle that comes along, and be perfected in the knowledge of God.

There is a great difficulty with the Elders on the other side; they generally get too large, and have to be hewn down to the proper size. If we grow too fast and become stubborn, the Lord will set us right, and let us be willing to be set right by him, and be humble, lowly, and holy, and ever have an eye single to the glory of God. And then, although we may

be cast into a den of lions, or a flaming furnace, or desire to have our sick healed, the blind receive their sight, or the dead raised, we shall not be left to ourselves; but the saving, healing and lifegiving powers of the Holy Ghost will be displayed on our behalf.

Brethren, don't be afraid of doing too much in this work, for it will take all we have, and require the exercise of all our faculties to keep right and do our duties. And above all things do not forget your prayers, You never saw any of your boys get on very well if they did not look to father occasionally; and so it is with us and our great father in the heavens. Apply to him: he is the fountain! he is the source!

Let us be careful of our conduct, that it be according to our profession, and then we shall be happy and rejoice continually in the Lord. And if you see a brother's fault, tell him of it; but don't tell anybody else, and then you will go on, and have the Spirit of the Lord to be with you.

I feel to bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and pray that you may be prospered in all you set your hands to do. (A loud Amen then re-echoed through the room.)

Elder John Van Cott arose and said, brethren, I am glad to see you, and as Elder Spencer has said concerning your looks, I can say that your faces look familiar to me. This is the first congregation I have felt at home with since I left Salt Lake. I feel that the power of the Spirit is here; your willingness to obey counsel and to uphold those who are set over you proves this to my entire satisfaction.

I presume I shall have to form an acquaintance with you, as I have to spend some time in this country. This is the first time I have been out to preach: I have never been accustomed to speaking. I am a farmer, and had my corn in the field when called upon to take this mission, but I did not take the trouble to go and look at it, but got ready and came off. I am a new beginner, and therefore you will excuse me if I have to speak in my own way, and if it does not please you I cannot help it.

The work in which we are engaged is a great and a glorious work! I did not engage in it for a day nor a year, nor for this life only, but for eternity. And I am sensible that it will take all our time do that which the Lord has laid upon us to perform. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and I also know that Brigham Young is his successor. These men have been the means of opening up a communication between the heavens and the earth, and have made our duties plain and straight before us; and in this we all rejoice. We have been used to believe it necessary for men to serve an apprenticeship to the ministry, and then get a diploma, and go to work, but now the scale is turned: it is by the Spirit of God, and not by the learning and wisdom of man that the Gospel is being preached. I have not served an apprenticeship, only to farming: I have followed nothing else. I don't know but some will call me a mountaineer. However, I feel to rejoice, and exhort you to be faithful, to be diligent in the discharge of your duties; no matter whether you have a portion of the priesthood or not; it is obedience that we have to learn, and when we have learned that to perfection, we have done a great and good work, and gained a prominent point. It makes my heart rejoice to see your smiling faces, and to see you have the same spirit like the Saints in the Valley. Be faithful and persevering, for this cause is worth laboring in, and as I said before, there is enough of work for every man and woman to do, in this kingdom. And I feel to say do not stumble at anything which may come forth, but receive all that is taught you, and all will be right. A father don't tell his children all at once, but reveals things by degrees, because the child cannot hear all things. There are many things we do not understand. For instance, we read in the Bible about the Resurrection, but we do not understand the principle by which it is done,

but this will be revealed, and made simple in its proper place. Therefore do not start and run the other way, neither make a bad use of anything that may be revealed, but be wise and careful of your conduct; for bear in mind we are called to be saviours of mankind, and must therefore take heed to our ways, lest we become a stumbling-block to those who are without.

May the Lord God of heaven bless you under all circumstances, that you may be enabled to keep faithful to your covenant engagements, is the prayer of your humble servant, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Gates said, I have been very happy, brethren, to night and throughout this day, in the company of these my brethren, who, with me, were among the first to enter into the valley.

As the evening is far advanced we will bring our meeting to a close; but before doing so I have one motion to make, and that is, that we have a good day to-morrow, and first rate meetings. Carried unanimously.

The council was closed with benediction by President Gates.

SUNDAY MORNING.

At half-past 10, the magnificent Freemasons' Hall was densely filled with Saints. President Gates gave out the hymn on the 10th page, which was sung by the choir. Prayer was offered by Elder C. V. Spencer, President of the Norwich Conference, after which the hymn on page 11 was sung.

President Gates.—We have a little business to do, which we will now lay before you, in relation to the authorities of the Church, and we shall then hear some speaking.

[Elder Long then read over the resolutions which were adopted on Saturday evening, and every one was unanimously carried.]

I rejoice this morning in being in the company of brethren with whom I have been associated in days gone by, and in circumstances of a very trying nature. They will be able to give us instructions throughout the day, and I hope that we shall have your prayers that the Spirit of God may rest upon us, and that we may have a day long to be remembered. I have looked forward to this Conference with a great deal of interest, and I feel assured it will be equal to my highest expectations.

I am about to close my ministry in this country, after an absence of three years from my family and the bosom of the church. I have found the Saints full of good feelings, and their kindness has caused me to forget that I was a stranger among them. The time is near when I shall be again associated with my family and friends in Zion, where they are under the auspices of heaven, and where they are full of the Spirit of Revelation, and upon whom the inhabitants of the earth are made dependent for salvation, in this dispensation.

There is but one man upon the earth at a time that has the keys of power, to bind and loose, and hence it is highly important that we understand that priesthood, its privileges and blessings, in order that we may run the race that is before us, and with the Saints of God who are in the heavens, win the prize and lay hold of eternal life; for there is no other way of gaining the crowns of glory and power in the presence of God, which are promised to the faithful saints. I pray that God may roll on his work, and that you may so act that the nations of the earth may be made to see and acknowledge the wisdom and glory of God.

Brethren, rejoice in the rising glory of Zion! for she is about to stand forth in her true colours before the nations, and she will expose the rottenness of man-made systems, and the corruptions of the Gentiles.

I hope, Brethren, when I leave you, and am going over the waters, prairies, and mountains of America that I shall feel the efficacy of your prayers.

I do not wish to continue my remarks longer at the present, and will therefore call upon Elder ARMSTRONG to read over the representations of the Conferences.

After the representations were read, Elder GATES said, I will now call upon the Presidents of the Conferences to speak of their respective fields of labour. We will hear from Elder Marsden.

President MARSDEN said,—It is with feelings of pleasure that I rise in obedience to the call of our beloved pastor, to speak for a few minutes. I have ever felt great pleasure in lahouring under the pastoral charge of Elder Gates. His labours have been abundantly blessed: near 1,400 have heen adopted into the Kingdom during the twelve months he has laboured amongst us, and I think this meeting but a faint expresssion of the success that has attended his labours in these conferences. A blessed epirit pervades this conference this morning.

I am generally hashful in speaking, and particularly when surrounded by such brethren as are here at present. But it would be a sin against my own conscience not to speak this morning; for considering the good that has been done and the great work that has been effected, I feel it to be an important duty to give expression to some of my feelings before this congregation.

When I first came to London to succeed Elder Kelsey, in the presidency of the London Conference, perhaps it was the most important field of lahour in the British Isles. And hesides, this conference has been peculiarly blessed, for all the great men who have been to England have visited London, and hence I felt my own incompetency; but now I feel that with the assistance of the hrethren in the priesthood, I can do all things that may he required of me. I have ever felt that goodness has reigned in your hearts towards me, and hence my former feeliugs have in a great measure given way, and I feel at home among you.

Elder THOMAS SQUIRES, President of the Reading Conference was called upon and said, Brethren and Sisters, it is with no small feeling of pleasure that I stand before you this morning, to speak a few words relative to the Reading Conference. When I look upon this large congregation it affords me much joy and satisfaction, particularly when I take a retrospective glance at the progress of the work of the Lord in this region of country. I have been connected with the London Conference for many years, and have watched the work of the Lord take rapid stridee, despite of the opposition it has had to contend with. I well remember when the Saints were few in number, and but very weak in this city. Since then great and mighty things have been done, and I perceive that great and still mightier things lay heforc us.

The Conference which I have the honour to represent extends into five counties, and as you have heard from the report, it is in a very flourishing condition. I have laboured according to my abilities, and the Lord has made me instrumental in raising up a conference of nearly 600. The most of the brethren I have baptized, confirmed, and ordained, and sent some out into the ministry. And with regard to the conference as a whole, it is in a healthy state, and the Saints are rejoicing in the work of the Lord. We have laboured diligently during the last year, and been blessed with the wisdom, counsel, and timely instruction of our beloved pastor Elder Gates. I have greatly rejoiced in his company from time to time, and have been much benefited by his counsel and wisdom. And in our conference I know there is the hest of feeling towards him, and he goes away with our united faith and prayers, and good wishes. He is a man of God, and a father to the brethren in the priesthood!

Elder JOHN LEWIS, President of the Kent Conference then rose and

eaid, I feel something this morning that I do not recollect ever feeling hefore in my life. There ie a joy in my hosom that I cannot express. The company that is now present reminds me of former days. I rememher when a small house could not he filled hy the Saints in the London Conference. Since then we have seen prophecies fulfilled which were delivered when the Church was in its infancy. I well remember Lorenzo Snow prophesying when he lahoured in this conference eome ten or twelve years ago, that the work of the Lord would roll on until thousands should be hrought to a knowledge of the truth ; and notwithstanding the conjectures there have been about them, because of the inadequacy of the means in use, yet we have seen them fulfilled to the letter.

I rejoice that God has owned my lahours as well as those of my hrethren who have lahoured with me in the conference over which I am called to preside. It has caused my heart to rejoice that I have had such men to labour with the past year. Twelve months ago there were 11 hranches, and now there are 22. We were then 400 strong, hut we are now over 600, and we have cheering prospects hefore us.

I have never laboured with greater pleasure than I have done with Elder Gates. His counsels have heen wise and godlike. And I feel to express my gratitude to Elder Gates for the counsel he has given me in circumstances when I required his instructions. I feel that the proeperity of the work has heen, in a great degree, on account of his counsels and instructions to me. I can say that the best of feelings are in the hosoms of the Saints in the Kent Conference. And their prayers are going up to God for his proeperity and preservation when crossing the seas and plains, hetween this and the city of Zion. And I ask God our eternal Father to hless him, and to bless us with his Holy Spirit this day. Even so. Amen.

Elder Martin Slack, President of the Essex Conference, was next called upon to speak, and said, the Essex Conference is the smallest of the four under the pastoral charge of Elder Gates. The Saints in that conference are good Saints. They have heen willing to carry out our counceie to the very letter. We have done a good work the past twelve months, and we intend to do a great and good work in the future. We are laying a good foundation, and we purpose building extensively upon it. Our branches are small, and we are all small in the Essex Conference. We numbered 10 hranches when we commenced, and we uow numher 14. And I helieve our increase will be greater in the future, and that we shall continue to spread and prosper until we receive an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of our God.

There are good feelings with all our Saints towards Elder Gates. All the Saints love him, and feel to bless him in every possihle way in their power. We purpose covering Essex and Herts with Latter-day Saints, and of taking them home to Zion. I might speak of difficulties, hut these things are not worth namiug on this occasion. The priesthood in the Essex Conference have listened to the counsels of their presidents, and have manifested a willingness to carry them out practically. And I do not think we could fiud a hetter set of travelling Elders in all these four conferences.

I pray that the Lord will grant us every righteous deeire of our hearts. Even so. Amen.

Pastor Gates—I feel to reciprocate the good feelings of my hrethren and eisters, and I can say of the Presidents of Conferences under my charge, that they have carried out my counsels in all things, and have ever heen one with me in all our measures and plans for the henefit of the cauee of God, and hence we have been ahundantly hlessed in our lahours.

Elder C. V. Spencer, President of the Norwich Conference, said, I can but feel pleasure and gratitude to my heavenly father, and also to Elder Gates, your worthy Pastor, for permitting me to stand before this people assembled in this room this morning. And I can say that my heart is filled with joy and thanksgiving, of such a nature as I have not experienced in this land before; and from the countenances of the Saints I feel that the same spirit and feeling are with them that predominate in the valleys of the mountains. And I also feel that any man holding the Holy Priesthood could talk before this congregation, but notwithstanding this, I feel my youth, and considering the talent and wisdom there are before me this morning, I don't feel to make many remarks.

I have rejoiced in the instructions given this morning, and I feel to congratulate the Saints in these conferences, not only in having been blessed with the labours of Elder Gates, but also on account of their being favoured with such great and good men to preside over them, as those who have spoken to us this forenoon; every one present will bear testimony that those men have the interest of the work of God at heart, and desire the welfare of all mankind.

It was then moved by Elder Marsden, that a memorial be got up expressive of our good feelings towards Elder Gates. Carried unanimously.

The Presidents of the four conferences were then chosen as a committee to get up a suitable memorial.

Adjourned for an hour.

AFTERNOON SERVICE.

The meeting was then opened by singing the hymn on page 26, prayer by Elder Slack.

President Gates then rose and said, I will try to speak so as to be heard, and will take this opportunity of requesting those who shall succeed me to speak as loud as possible.

I hope while we are here every heart will be drawn out in faith before God, that we may have the Holy Ghost to assist us, for it is by the Holy Ghost that we are enabled to discern between truth and error. I rejoice in being associated with a people who love the truth, and who have come to a knowledge thereof by their obedience to the mandates of heaven. I rejoice in being connected with a people who form a part of the Church of God on the earth. And I rejoice also that there are those here who can bear the same unflinching testimony to the work in which we are engaged. We have only just commenced in the great work of the last days. The greater part of the work lies before us, and hence it is for us to be vigilant in the discharge of our duties. We have every thing presented before us necessary to stimulate us to go on until we are perfected in the knowledge of God. If we expect to win a celestial crown we must live for it. It is very easy to talk about enjoying those things, but we have trials and privations to endure and pass through before we can attain to the enjoyment of a full fruition of those great and glorious blessings which have been made over to us, through our obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

We must stand firm and inflexible in the work which we have begun; yea, even amidst the breaking to pieces of the nations of the earth. We must live the life of Saints. For let me tell you that this is an age of revelation; a day in which the Lord will reveal many things unto us which he promised in days of old. Therefore examine yourselves, to see if you can stand, providing the greater light, the development of truths, which have been hid from the world for ages, should bring on the severest per-

secution; can you stand in all the trying circumstances that the people of God may be called to endure, or that can come upon the nations of the earth? Ask yourselves this question before you proceed any further.

I have seen some men in the course of my life, and have also seen some during the rise and progress of this work, that have fallen to perdition, and that, too, because they misjudged the things of God. Man's ways are not as God's ways, neither has God ever thought proper to counsel with the children of men, what he should do, but he has from time to time revealed that which he knew would be for the good of all those who chose to accept of his terms of life and salvation. And there have been but few willing to do as the Lord told them; but those who have been willing have been peculiarly blessed of the Lord, in all their undertakings, both temporal and spiritual. Has the work been carried on in the land of Zion without labour? No, it has not only cost labour and toil, but some of the best blood that has ever been upon the face of the earth. The PROPHET and PATRIARCH have sealed their testimony with their blood in order to establish upon the earth those principles which are indispensable to the perfection and the exaltation of the faithful sons and daughters of God.

God has said by the mouths of his Son and the prophets that the earth, with all its attendant blessings, is for his saints to enjoy. But have they ever yet possessed it? No. But God has now commenced that work which will put them in the possession of that great and glorious blessing.

He (Elder Gates) then adverted to the blessings of Abraham, and to the promises and blessings made over to the saints of the last days; and showed that the same blessings as were given to Abraham would be given to all the faithful saints. He said his heart rejoiced in the things of God, and although they might come in contact with our religion and education, yet shall we look at these in preference to the things that are being revealed in our own day and generation? God forbid. Our fathers have strayed from the truth, and have lost the key of knowledge, and hence we can say, "surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit."

The children of men have been instructed that they must be governed by their consciences. Now a man's conscience is formed according to the nature of his education. Were we to depend upon our consciences which have been formed by, or agreeable to the instructions of our fathers, where should we go to, and what should we have to acknowledge? Go to the Pagan and the Mahometans, and they are governed by their consciences. Their education teaches them to follow their peculiar religion, and their consciences do not accuse them. A man's conscience therefore is no rule or criterion to go by; but this is the rule and the law:—except the people listen to the voice of the servants of God, they cannot come into the kingdom of God, nor obtain a saving knowledge of the truth.

I am aware that it is thought by some that division is necessary to the peace and prosperity of society. But I say there is but one spirit that leadeth into all truth, and that spirit will lead unto one and the same way of truth, and there is no division about it. The scriptures say, If we are not one, we are not Christ's, and this is our faith.

The Book of Mormon and Book of Covenants were revealed for our edification and instruction in the things of God, but they were never intended to be our eternal guide. They were given to assist in laying the foundation, and are very good in their places. But the world have driven down stakes from which they will not flinch nor turn aside, but will amuse themselves continually by running round the circle they have staked out, and I fear that some of the Latter-day Saints will be found guilty of the same thing. The Lord has said that he will rêveal line upon line, precept upon

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precept, until we hecome perfect, and ready to enter into the celestial kingdom of our God. He then proved that if the Jewish or ancient prophets and apostles had shown the world all they knew, instead of saving them, it would have caused them to reject even the first principles of the doctrine of Christ; and then ohserved, hrethren I see hy your countenances that you anticipate having inheritances in the land of Zion, and that yon intend heing faithful to your covenant engagements.

There are many revelations which you have not received in this age of the world, but which must come in their proper time, and there are some that cannot be received hut in the house of the Lord. And there will he some who won't receive the law of God in all things, hut I know there are many in this congregation who will rejoice and thank God for the hlessings he is offering to hestow upon the faithful Saints.

How often have we prayed God to give us more light and more intelligence, that we might he prepared for the performance of all our duties. And now I hope you are all prepared for every thing which God may reveal for your perfection in the principles of eternal life.

I feel to hear testimony that Brigham Young, who now holds the keys of power in this Church, is a servant and prophet of the most high God. And also that the twelve Apostles whom God has placed in his Church to be special witnesses to the nations of the earth, are good men, and that all nations must acknowledge their authority, or he overthrown. All the congregation said Amen.

I will now introduce Elder Marsden to read a revelation given to the prophet Joseph Smith, for the henefit of his people in these last days.

Elder Marsden then read the revelation on marriage as puhlished in No. 1 Star, vol. 15, after which the afternoon service was brought to a close in the usual way.

EVENING SERVICE.

Elder James Marsden said—Dear Brethren, Sisters, and Friends, We certainly feel honoured to-day, in heing called upon to introduce revelations, which have heen kept hid from the world up to the present time. And knowing that this with other principles that will come forth will come in contact with the prejudices of men and women in this generation, we wish to make the subject as plain as possible.

We know that a great many objections may he raised against a plurality of wives. Some will argue that wives are ahout to he robhed of their privileges, and many similar ohjections will be raised. We only wish we could feel at liberty this evening to tell women what are their rights. We are all aware that women's rights, as well as men's, must he regulated according to law. Men talk ahout purity, and women talk ahout purity, hut we shall have to find a principle of purity hy which males and females may he governed in their domestic and marriage relations hefore we can hecome pure. We are degraded in this respect, and it is necessary that God should interfere that all things may be set in order. Where shall we look for purity! And the question might be asked where shall we not find licentiousness? I realize that this doctrine, in its worst state, is not so had as the present system under which we now live.

There are many men in our country, and there will he many more, who will take hold of this doctrine as the only means of revolutionizing the world. Elder Marsden then made some pithy remarks upon the 45th Psalm, 4th chapter of Isaiah, the teachings of the New Testament, and page 118 of the Book of Mormon; and proceeded to show the necessity of

that important revelation, that the world might be cleansed from corruption, and purified for the coming of Christ.

He also gave the congregation to understand that we are to be obedient to the laws of nations, so long as we are protected by those laws. These things are not for us to indulge in here: no, we have no business with them until we get where the people are governed by the law of God, and therefore we must not take licence for licentiousness; it is not given for us to do so, but it is given as a law by which we are to be purified.

Elder C. V. SPENCER being again called upon to speak, made many instructive observations upon his experience from the time he first embraced the Gospel up to the present, and referred pathetically to his venerable father, expressing his gladness of heart, at meeting him in a foreign land on a mission so important as that of preaching the Gospel to the benighted sons of men.

Elder J. V. LONG also addressed the meeting, upon the order of the Kingdom of God, to the edification of all who were present.

After a few spirited observations from Elders GUYMAN & VAN COTT, Elder GATES delivered a very brief and appropriate speech, after which the meeting was closed with singing and prayer.

JACOB GATES, PASTOR.
JAMES MARSDEN, } SECRETARIES.
J. V. LONG, }

TESTIMONIAL

PRESENTED TO

ELDER JACOB GATES,

AT THE

PASTORAL CONFERENCE, HELD DEC. 26TH, 1852,

By the Saints of the London, Kent, Reading, and Essex Conferences.

BELOVED BROTHER GATES,—We, the officers and members of the London, Kent, Reading, and Essex Conferences, cannot, consistently with our best feelings, allow you to return to the bosom of the Church and your dear family, without offering you this humble expression of the gratitude of our hearts towards you for the great blessings you have conferred upon us during the period of your pastoral labours in our midst.

The natural goodness of your disposition; the soothing and winning tone of your social qualities; your unremitting labours in instructing us in the high and holy principles of truth and duty, and preparing our minds to receive doctrines which have for ages been hidden from the world, but are now made known by Revelation fresh from the Fountain of Intelligence, and are indispensable to our exaltation in the Kingdom of God; the godlike and fatherly government which you have exercised over us, in which you manifested a just regard for truth and virtue, and a saviour's commisseration for weak and erring humanity; a due sense of the dignity of the Holy Priesthood which you hold, and a proper appreciation of the authority and privileges of those who have had the honour to labour under your pastoral care, are among the causes which produce this spontaneous, though feeble, expression of our feelings.

The addition to the Church by Baptism of nearly 1400 souls in these Conferences, during the year's ministry you have performed amongst us—the full discharge of every requisition made upon the Saints through you—the spirit of health and activity which pervades the minds of the Saints generally; and the place you occupy in the affections of the 4000 people of God who composed your pastoral charge in this portion of the vineyard, as also the affections of many others in the British Isles, constitute a success which to you must be a source of unmingled joy.

Farewell, respected Pastor; may your future career comport with your past conduct, so, that as error must yield the palm of victory to Truth, and vice succumb to virtue, you on the pinnacle of your worth, by the grace of God, may be eligible to take your stand among the gods, even the sons of God in celestial glory. Amen.

(Signed)

JAMES MARSDEN, LONDON, JOHN LEWIS, KENT,
THOS. SQUIRES, READING, MARTIN SLACK, ESSEX.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING

OF THE

LONDON CONFERENCE.

The Presidents of Branches assembled in the Eastern Lecture Hall, Whitechapel, on Saturday evening, December 5th, 1852, for the transaction of Conference business. The meeting was opened by prayer, after which it was unanimously voted that Elder George Sims be Assistant-Secretary for the evening. The various authorities of the Church were then presented and unanimously sustained. The reports of the branches were then given in, after which, the Presidents of the various branches gave very cheering accounts of the work in their different fields of labour. Some alterations were made in the several branches, that are not necessary to be mentioned in this report. Meeting closed by prayer.

Dr. *State of the General Book and Star Agency Account.* **Cr.**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Amount due to the Liverpool Office	£577	2	5¾	By owing by Branches (see following Table)	£198	1	1
				,, Kent Conference	79	5	9¾
				,, Essex ditto	49	0	4
				,, Reading	5	11	7½
				,, Norwich	1	3	4½
				,, Bradford	2	14	9
				,, Preston	3	15	0
				,, South	0	6	10
				,, Cambridge	0	8	6
				,, Travelling Elders, &c.	4	10	3
				,, Calcutta Branch	9	17	10
				,, Stock in hand	206	8	3
				,, Cash in hand	15	18	10
	£577	2	5¾		£577	2	5¾

Dr. *State of the Conference Fund.* **Cr.**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To amount donated by Branches during the half-year (see Table)	33	19	1	By deficiency in last half-year's Account	28	19	9¾
,, Kent Conference	1	17	0	,, Tracts, Books, &c., given to Travelling Elders	7	8	1½
,, Reading ditto	1	5	0	,, Conference Record Books	2	5	0
,, Essex	3	1	0	,, Cheque Books	0	16	0
,, Liverpool	5	2	4½	,, Board and Lodging—Elder Gates	7	10	0
,, Preston	1	15	0	,, Expenses—Elder S. W. Richards,	2	0	0
,, South	2	0	0	,, ,, Elder Levi Richards,	2	0	0
,, Warwickshire	1	0	0	,, ,, Visiting Elders	2	0	0
,, Birmingham	1	0	0	,, Board for Elders	1	10	0
,, Norwich	1	0	0	,, Paid Sister Woodward	12	0	0
,, Derbyshire	0	10	0	,, ,, Willis	6	17	0
,, Leicester	0	10	0	,, Stationery	0	1	6
,, Collections in Hall	9	16	10¾	,, Incidental Expenses	0	6	0
Balance due to the Treasurer	10	17	1				
	£73	13	5¼		£73	13	5¼

LONDON CONFERENCE TABULAR RETURN.

No.	Name of Branch.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Baptisms	Received. From within Conference.	Received. From other Conferences.	Removed. To within Conference.	Removed. To other Conferences.	Emigrated.	Cut off.	Dead.	Scattered.	Total No. of Members.	Amount donated towards the Temple Fund	Amount donated towards the perpetual Emigration Fund.	Amount donated in aid of the Conference or Missionary Fund.	Amount due to the General Book and Millennial Star Agent.
1	Holborn	12	9	11	3	35	19	3	23	1	1	6	3	39	287	£18 10 0	£9 3 6½	£5 0 0	£10 13 2¾
2	Whitechapel	8	8	10	4	32	6	5	14	1		7	3	15	235	12 15 0	3 19 5	2 0 0	12 17 7¼
3	Woolwich	11	11	3	3	34	7	3	2	12		8		12	181	11 2 6	4 10 3	3 0 0	12 4 3
4	Paddington	4	7	5	2	14	5	9	4	6		1	1	7	132	9 2 6	6 16 8½	2 11 0	5 0 8¾
5	Somers Town	7	2	6	2	15	4	3	36	2		11	2		129	4 13 6	2 12 4½	1 6 0	14 2 1¼
6	Finsbury	8	5	2	2	21	2	3	17	5		4	2	6	129	10 14 6½	7 11 1½	2 0 0	8 2 2½
7	Islington	5	3	4	2	13	8	3	8			2	1	8	89	5 2 6	2 15 6	1 12 0	12 5 3½
8	Globe Fields	5	4	4	3	9	4	3	3	4		5	2	9	83	2 10 0	1 1 6		6 9 5¾
9	Deptford	7	6	3	1	4	5	2	6	1		2		17	80	6 0 5	3 16 1½	2 0 0	2 18 9
10	Notting Dale	4	3	3	1	18	3	1	4			4			71	3 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	4 9 0½
11	Westminster	5	1	5	3	9	10	8	2	2		3		6	66	1 6 6	0 19 2	1 12 1½	9 0 2¾
12	Old Kent Road	5	7	6		13	19	4	22	2		4		12	65	3 18 1	1 6 0	1 0 0	7 7 9½
13	Poplar	6	4	5	2	10	5	5	7			5		8	65	3 0 0	4 14 6	1 10 0	6 0 10½
14	Kennington	7	2	2	4	5	5	2	22	1		13	1	21	63	11 19 7	1 9 7	0 16 0	11 16 9¾
15	Camden Town	8	3	3	2	7	2		5	1	3	4	1	4	63	2 19 0	1 2 6½		7 4 2½
16	Limehouse	9	2	3	2	3	5	1	9	1		8			61	4 8 9	4 19 9	1 11 0	4 14 10½
17	Chelsea	4	4	3	1	12	17	1	4	13		3	1	9	57	4 11 2½	1 5 0	0 10 0	13 10 3½
18	Bermondsey New Road	5	2	3	2	9	10	1				1			50	0 6 1	0 6 11		3 6 10½
19	Welling	7	2	2		12			15			4			45	2 19 1	2 17 2	1 1 0	3 7 0
20	Lambeth	3	5	2	1	3	3	1	15		1	3			42	3 2 11	1 5 7½	0 15 0	8 5 9
21	Bromley	3	5	2	2	9	1		1			5	1	5	42	2 5 0	2 5 2	0 10 0	2 8 7
22	Haggerstone	3	3	1	2	5	7	3	2	1		4			35	1 2 3	1 7 1	0 7 0	2 11 11½
23	Hammersmith	2	1		1	3	4			3		1		6	32	2 14 3	0 16 0	0 11 0	0 5 3¼
24	Croydon	2	1	1	1	5		1	1	1		7		2	31	1 10 5	0 16 6	0 6 1½	3 9 9
25	Stoke Newington	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	1		1		4	30	0 12 1	2 2 2	0 9 0	2 6 4
26	Holloway	2	2	1	1	2	5		2			6		3	26	0 16 0	0 14 0		5 6 10
27	West End	3	1			4	22								26				0 6 10½
28	Kensall New Town	3	1	2	1	3		5	5			13	1	2	24	1 17 6		0 6 6	2 11 9¾
29	Bow	1	2		2	4	6							2	24	0 7 0	0 18 10½	0 7 6	1 13 7¼
30	Hoxton	3		1		14	4	1							22				0 15 3¼
31	Eltham	2	3	1	1	6						1			20		0 11 5	0 6 4	0 9 7½
32	St Olaves	3	1	1	1	3	17					1			20			0 3 9	
33	Whetstone	2	2			10	14					5			19	0 5 3	0 5 0	0 5 0	4 16 11½
34	Brompton	3		1		3	1		3		8	1		5	18		0 14 0	0 3 3	1 1 1¾
35	Lark Hall	2		2	1	5	4	1	1					4	18			0 4 0	0 6 9
36	Battersea	1	3							2		5		6	17	1 17 0		0 13 0	2 9 7¼
37	Greenwich	2	2	1	1	5	1	2				2	1		16				1 18 9
38	Dartford	1	1	1			14								14		0 7 9		
39	Barking	3	2		1	1	1		2					1	12	0 7 9	1 2 9½	0 2 6	0 4 6¼
40	Edmonton	1	2	1	1	5	1								10				
	Total	174	124	104	58	367	233	74	236	60	13	150	20	213	2449	£135 16 8	£75 13 6½	£33 19 1	£198 1 1

BRANCHES IN THE LONDON CONFERENCE, DEC. 5TH, 1853.

NO.	BRANCHES.	PLACE OF MEETING.	NAME OF PRESIDENT.	ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT.
1	Holborn	148, Holborn Bars	David Shorten	5, Hand Court, Holborn.
2	Whitechapel	Eastern Lecture Hall, Church Lane	Thomas C. Armstrong	35, Jewin-street, City.
3	Woolwich	Thomas Street, Woolwich	Thomas Fisher	14, Kingston Terrace, New Charlton.
4	Paddington	Literary Institution, Carlisle-street	J. C. Bayliss	20, Salisbury Place, Lock's Fields, Walworth.
5	Somers Town	The Hall, George-street, Hampstead Road	John Tuddenham	4, Grove-street, Little Cross-street, Islington.
6	Finsbury	Providence Chapel, Cumberland-st., Curtain Rd	John Bray Maiben	17, Bridgewater-square, Barbican.
7	Islington	23, Radcliffe Terrace, Goswell Road	Thomas McCaughie	17, Berry-street, Little Sutton-street, Clerkenwell
8	Globe Fields	41, Globe Road, Mile End	Thomas Hilliker	41, Globe Road, Mile End.
9	Deptford	1, Collier-street, Deptford	John Griffiths	1, Barnes Buildings, New Town, Woolwich.
10	Notting Dale	17, Princes Road, Norland-square	James P. Grinham	17, Princes Road, Norland-square.
11	Westminster	Temperance Hall, Broadway	Samuel Priday	5, Frances-street, Tothill Fields, Westminster.
12	Old Kent Road	Crown Wharf, Canal Bridge	James Jones	210, Evelyn-street, Deptford.
13	Poplar	28, Penny Fields, Poplar	Samuel Purdy	28, Penny Fields, Poplar.
14	Kennington	1, Mount-street, Walworth Road, Surrey	John Hawkins	1, Robert-street, North Brixton.
15	Camden Town	76, Camden Row, Kentish Town	Joseph Eldridge	9, Lewis-street, Kentish Town.
16	Limehouse	Lecture Hall, opposite Limehouse Church	Eli Hull	6, Bowen-street, Poplar New Town.
17	Chelsea	Beulah Chapel, Pond Place, Chelsea	Thomas Goodman	Eccleston Place, Pimlico.
18	Bermondsey New Rd	27, Bermondsey New Road	James Brooks	10½, County Terrace-street, New Kent Road.
19	Welling	Richard Hills, Welling	William Morrison	1, Chesham Cottages, Hardins Manorway, Woolwich
20	Lambeth	1, Whiting-street, Waterloo Road	John Couch	8, Duke-street, Stamford-street.
21	Bromley	Westerham Road, Bromley Common, Kent	Thomas Caffall	John Nash's Farnborough, Kent.
22	Haggerstons	20, Great Cambridge-street, Hackney Road	James Willis	20, Great Cambridge-street.
23	Hammersmith	Windsor Castle Academy	James Holmes	Mr. Saunders, Devonshire-rd., North End, Chiswick
24	Croydon	117, Old Town, and Ebenezer Chapel, Shirley,	Wm. H. Kelsey	117, Old Town, Croydon.
25	Stoke Newington	15, Church-street, Stoke Newington	Robert Clifton	15, Church-street.
26	Holloway	1, Cornwall Place, Holloway	Robert Haslam	12, Roman Terrace, Barnsbury Park.
27	West End	25, Castle-street, Oxford-street	Joseph Andrews	12, Millman-street, Bedford Row.
28	Kensall New Town	1, Richmond Villas	George Harris	1, Bulmer Place, Notting Hill.
29	Bow	Opposite Fair Fields, Bow Road	William Kidman	27, Ellerthorpe-street, Poplar New Town.
30	Hoxton	51, Great James-street	George Derry	2, Fann-street, Aldersgate-street.
31	Eltham	Pound Place, Eltham	Henry Berriman	10, Mount-street, New Charlton, Woolwich.
32	St. Olaves	1, Red Lion Court, Bermondsey-street	Henry Slade	25, Burrage Place, Burrage-rd, Plumpstead, Kent.
33	Whetstone	Near Whetstone Gate, Middlesex	John Benj. Franklin	Near Whetstone Gate, Middlesex.
34	Lark Hall	6, Cooper's Cottages, Clapham	John Showell	17, Robert-street, Brixton.
35	Battersea		William Ansell	11, Ashton's Buildings, Church-street, Battersea.
36	Greenwich	Hyde Vale, Royal Hill	— Longhurst	4, Turner's Hill, New Town, Deptford.
37	Dartford	Frederick Davis', Waterside	Henry Butler	William-street, Woolwich.
38	Barking	Mr. Danzies, North-street	John Wells	5, Duff-street, East India Road, Poplar.
39	Edmonton	1, Snell's Park, Edmonton	J. W. Dawson	15, Archer-street, Camden Town.

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